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SOURCE Yugoslav newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

LIVING STANDARDS,
INCLUDING HOUSING,
BETTER THAN PREWAR

STANDARD OF LIVING -- Borna, No 286, 25 Nov 48

If the average prewar consumption of goods and services per capita in Yugoslavia is taken as 100, the postwar standard of living i.e., average expenditure for goods and services, may be expressed as follows:

	1939	1945	1947	1948
Food	100	60.92	82.14	102.28
Clothing	100	20.45	78.92	102.19
Shoes	100	23.38	58.08	97.63
Fuel	100	88.67	90.38	97.42
Light	100	8.79	166.62	300.71
Recreation and medical care	100	22.51	96.59	132.07
Social life	100	67	148	172

Since 1945, purchases of household goods have more than doubled. By 1947, expenditures for cultural and sporting goods increased 45 times, and purchases of hygienic and sanitary goods were four times greater than in 1945.

The average standard of living which was only about 54.88 percent of the prewar figure in 1945, should exceed the prewar figure by the end of 1948, according to the plan, which in general is being fulfilled.

The relative position of the bourgeoisie has been deteriorating steadily from year to year; their standard of living has fallen, and they are no longer able to monopolize the national income. Meanwhile the standard of living of the

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laboring classes has risen out of proportion to the indications of the table. In 1937, the small group of the urban bourgeoisie drew 46.18 percent of the national income, the bourgeois government 15.9 percent, and the working classes, including white-collar workers, 14.2 percent. In 1948, however, rural and urban capitalistic elements received only 11.22 percent gross and 4.45 percent net of the national income, the socialist government, 38.33 percent, and laborers and white-collar workers, 25.07 percent. The remaining 25.38 percent went to craftsmen and to farmers with medium or small farms.

In the following table, the average consumption per capita in 1939, when manufactured goods were mainly imported, is taken as 100.

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
Cotton cloth for men's clothing	100	69.13	106.05	126.92
Cotton cloth for underwear	100	14.82	93.05	101.03
Cotton dress goods	100	15.87	68.11	140.17
Woolens for men's clothing	100	69.12	106.05	126.92
Leather shoes	100	31.28	58.95	110

Purchases of farm implements and tools for handicrafts have increased substantially. Sales of plows, for example, have more than doubled since the war, sales of other farm implements have almost doubled, sales of craftsmen's tools have increased one and one-half times, sales of motor vehicle equipment are 15 percent greater, and 34 percent more nails are being sold than before the war.

Per capita consumption of basic foodstuffs in kilograms is shown in the following table:

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
Bread grains	395.64	294.96	321.52	342.98
Fats	14.10	8.10	9.53	14.7
Sugar	20.49	12.94	21.97	23.60
Meat products	0.59	1.42	2.49	1.66

By 1951 the national income in Yugoslavia will increase 93 percent, from 132 billion dinars in 1939 to 255 billion and the average per capita income will increase correspondingly from 8,484 to 15,625.

The basic prerequisite for further improvement in the standard of living is the development of heavy industry. Iron and steel, for example, are indispensable for the mechanization of agriculture and for light industry, on which the standard of living directly depends. The Five-Year Plan provides per capita increases by 1951 in the production of coal and steel, amounting to about 300 percent; electric power, about 400 percent; farm machinery, 900 percent. Most of the investment called for under the Plan is for the development of heavy industry. Production of consumer goods, according to the plan, will increase over 200 percent over 1939 for textiles, 250 percent for shoes, 400 percent for furniture, 150 percent for lard, 300 percent for vegetable oils, 200 percent for sugar, 1,600 percent for preserved fruits and vegetables, and 900 percent for meat products.

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN BELGRADE Politika, No 13091, 26 Nov 48

The Five-Year Plan calls for the erection of 25,000 housing units in Belgrade, about 8,000 of which are to be built next year. Restrictions on building materials make it imperative that new construction methods and materials be developed.

A factory for cinder blocks has been built at the "Elektrina Centrala" (Electric Power Plant) on the Danube. The large capacity of this factory will help to relieve the shortage of brick.

The "Polet" Construction Enterprise has developed a method for using reeds which grow in the marshes in unlimited quantities as a building material. A one-story building erected on Gavrilovicva Street is built of wood and reed blocks. The wooden framework was cut beforehand and assembled on the site. Then a double wall of reed blocks, with an air space between, was applied. The walls were spread with stucco, and the building was finished.

The essential advantage of such construction is that the parts can be prefabricated by mass production, and that they can be assembled by unskilled labor. The lightness of the materials makes the work quicker and easier. The only disadvantage is the high cost of the blocks, 165 dinars per square meter. Two large presses which will cut the cost in half have just been purchased.

By substituting reinforced concrete for the wooden framework buildings of several stories can be built.

A community of 17 apartment buildings is now being built of reed blocks in Vozdovac [a suburb of Belgrade]. This winter will test their practicability and determine how many will be built in this manner during the next building season.

[Politika, No 13062, 23 Oct 48: Each building will have two or four apartments, each with one or two bedrooms, living room, and kitchen. They are not regarded as barracks, but will be tastefully furnished and arranged to give the impression of a small community villa.

The reed blocks are applied to the walls as a facing 5 centimeters thick. The buildings will be ready for occupancy as soon as the construction is finished because it is not necessary to wait for them to dry out.]

BUILDING ACTIVITY IN BOSNIA -- Politika, No 13070, 1 Nov 48

Under the auspices and direction of the Communist Party, 119,500 dwellings in villages of Bosnia and Herzegovina were repaired and 2,000 new ones built during 1948. In the cities 6,161 dwellings were repaired and 1,853 new ones built, besides 1,330 now under construction. Eighty-six hospitals and over 1,200 elementary and secondary schools and universities have been repaired or built. Furthermore, 350 kilometers of standard-gauge and 35 kilometers of narrow-gauge railway have been built.

Members of the People's Front have repaired 7,592 kilometers of road, cut 147 kilometers of new road, built 75 kilometers of telephone lines, and built or repaired 2,698 meters of bridges this year.

HOUSING FOR MINERS -- Politika, No 13083, 17 Nov 48

Housing has been prepared for over 2,000 miners at the Zasavski mines, 470 at Kraka, 400 at Breza, and about 200 workers' families at Kakanj [it is not clear whether the Kraka and Breza figures are for individuals or families]. The housing programs at Banovici, Bor, Trepcva, and some other mines have slowed down

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considerably, and very little attention has been paid to the problem at Zenica, where there are not more than 32 dwelling units.

COOPERATIVE HOUSING -- Borba, No 285, 24 Nov 48

Four thousand cooperative dwellings are now being built in Yugoslavia, 1,253 of them in Serbia, 227 in the Vojvodina, 174 in Kosovo and Metohija, 430 of a projected 500 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1,019 in Croatia, 197 of a projected 356 in Macedonia, 57 in Montenegro, and 529 in Slovenia. According to present indications, the plan should be realized this year.

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